

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a metal-ceramic composite member, comprising:

placing a ceramic member in a movable mold member;

pouring a molten metal to be joined into the movable mold member which is disposed inside a fixed passage member so as to bring the molten metal into contact with a surface of the ceramic member; and

cooling and solidifying the molten metal to join the metal onto the surface of the ceramic member by a direct joining strength of the ceramic and the metal on an interface therebetween,

wherein the molten metal to be joined is poured while the movable mold member is passing through a passage member, with the ceramic member placed in the movable mold member, extending along a plurality of process regions, practically in a shielded state from the atmosphere.

8. (Original) A method for manufacturing a metal-ceramic composite member according to claim 7, wherein the solidification is made to progress in one direction when the molten metal is cooled and solidified.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a metal-ceramic composite member according to claim 7,

wherein the metal is aluminum or an alloy essentially consisting of aluminum, and

wherein the ceramic member is any one of an oxide, a nitride, and a carbide of aluminum, and an oxide, a nitride, and a carbide of silicon.

10. (Cancelled).